THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

Transfer of local Assamese Officers from State Bank of India Guwahati

3936. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently as many as 23 Assamese officers have been transferred from the Head Office of the State Bank of India, Guwahati to other States;

(b) if so, what are the reasons behind this large-scale transfer of local officers; and

(c) whether it is an isolated case for Assamese officers or an all India policy carried out in other States also?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) State Bank of India has reported that the total number of Assamese Officers identified for transfer to other States in North-Eastern Region from the different branches/offices in the state of Assam is seventeen (17) out of which only two (2) officers are from Head Office. The Bank has also reported that the transfers are effected in terms of Bank's policy on transfer and as more officers are available in Assam as compared to other six States served by the Circle, it becomes necessary to transfer Assamese Officers to other States. Further these officers are transferred so that the bank can bring back other Assamese Officers to Assam who have completed their tenure in other States.

The Bank has stated that this is as ongoing process and not an isolated case of transfer of Assamese Officers. These transfers have been done in accordance with the Transfer Policy in vogue in the Circle which has been formulated on the basis of all-India norms. The total number of officers involved under this particular transfer chain is stated to be thirty-three (33), out of which seventeen (17) are Assamese Officers.

Purchases of defence equipments through Shri L. M. Thapar

3937. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Shri L.M. Thapar, who is involved in FERA violations, has been instrumental in providing two trucks supplied by Saab-Scania A.B. for 155 MM FH-77B Howitzer, for whom Shri Thaper is working as agent or consultant, according to information given by in-house booklet of Greaves Group of companies, chaired by Shri Thapar;

(b) whether it is a fact that Greaves Cotton Limited, chaired by Shri Thapar, or the companies connected with Shri Thapar House have been instrumental in providing 75 per cent of imported defence equipment; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that purchases through Thapar Group of companies during last three years run above Rs. 10,000 crores?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) Government have concluded a contract with M|s Bofors for supply of the complete 155 mm Field Howitzer System including vehicles. This contract has been negotiated directly with M|s Bofors.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

Computers using Indian languages

3938. SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether computers, capable of using Indian languages in their respective scripts, have been developed; and

(b) if so, whether multilangauge keyboards also have been evolved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) Yes Sir

(b) Yes Sir. Phonetic based keyboard layout for Indian scripts has been evolved which can support multiple Indian scripts on the same keyboard.

Exemption of computer manufacturing units from export obligation

3939. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have introduced many fiscal measures, including export obligations, to ensure that the Indian manufacturing units, particularly those dependent on imports, export part of their production, and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Government is considering to exempt certain industries, including computers from export obligation and if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether most Indian computer manufacturing units depend upon substantial imports; and

(d) what is the justification in exempting them from export obligations, particularly the multinational-collaborated units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Export obligation is being put on additional new capacity approval in the area of computer|computer peripherals manufacture to make up for the foreign exchange outflow on account of imported inputs required for manufacture.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (d) Government are considering the general question of export obligation on computer manufacturers but no decision has been taken so far.

Import of Italian marble tiles by a member of Parliament

@3940. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the press report regarding import of Italian marble tiles by a Member of Parliament for his house in Mehrauli in Delhi;

(b) if so, what was the quantity and cost of the tiles so imported;

(c) what are the details of import duty paid thereon;

(d) whether an import licence was obtained for the purpose; and

(e) if not, how the consignment was cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) Government have come across press reports regarding import of Italian marble tiles in the name of a Member of Parliament.

(b) The declared weight of the consignment was 3797 Kilos, and the declared FOB value, Italian Lira 57,75,000 equivalent to Rs. 52,581.

(c) The amount of duty was Rs. 1,33,767.20.

(d) and (e) As no import licence was produced for clearing the goods, the case was adjudicated under the provisions of the Customs Act and imported goods allowed clearance on payment of a fine of Rs. 63,000.

@Previously Unstarred Question 3508, transferred from the 25th August, 1987.